Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency | Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale

MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT
THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES TO CANADA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT
1.2 PREPARATION OF THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT
1.3 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
1.4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION
1.5 PUBLIC REGISTRY/ FEAI
1.6 AMENDING THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT

2.0 THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING PROCESS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

2.1 CLASS SCREENING 8
2.2 THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES AND HOW THIS TRIGGERS CEAA 9
2.3 MODEL CLASS SCREENING PROCESS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

2.3.1 Development of the Model Class Screening Process for the Class
2.3.2 Implementation Of The Model Class Screening Process
2.3.3 Responsibilities, Time Lines and Public Review

3.0 THE NEED FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES AND A DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTATION PRACTICES

3.1 THE NEED FOR IMPORTING CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEY BEES

3.2 IMPORTATION PRACTICES

3.2.1 Historical Context
3.2.2 Varroa Mites
3.2.3 Africanized Honeybees
3.2.4 Import Protocols and Permits
3.2.5 Import Seasons

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

4.1 INTRODUCTION 22
4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS 22
4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION 23

4.3.1 Effects on Native Bee Populations
4.3.2 Increase in Disease through Varroa Mite Infestations
4.3.3 Human Health and Safety
4.3.4 Concluding Comments

4.4 RESIDUAL EFFECTS 26

4.5 MALFUNCTIONS AND ACCIDENTS 26

4.6 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS 26

4.7 FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING 27

4.8 CLASS SCREENING CRITERIA 27

5.0 THE CLASS SCREENING PROCESS FOR ROUTINE PROJECTS

5.1 PREPARING THE CLASS SCREENING PROJECT REPORTS (FORM) 28

5.2 COMPLETING THE CLASS SCREENING PROJECT REPORT (FORM) 28

LIST OF FIGURES:

Figure 1: Importation of Certified European Honeybees Screening Process Steps 30

Figure 2: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Class Screening Project

LIST OF APPENDIXES

Appendix A: Canadian Food Inspection Agency Area Offices

Appendix B: Canadian Food Inspection Agency Area Offices

Appendix C Import Requirement

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 1997, the Government of Canada consolidated all federally-mandated food inspection and quarantine services into a single agency, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The CFIA began operations in April 1997. It reports to Parliament through the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. All inspection services related to food safety, economic fraud, trade-related requirements, and animal and plant health programs are provided by CFIA. The CFIA is a responsible authority (RA) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act or the CEAA), in that it is required to conduct environmental assessments (EA) of certain projects for which it exercises a regulatory duty (e.g., the importation of animals into Canada). Animal importation includes the importation of European honeybees. This activity is defined as a project under the Act.

Approximately 8,000 packages of honeybees, (approximately 2 pounds of bees per package) and 150,000 queen bees are imported each year into Canada from Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia. Honeybees play an essential role in the pollination of fruits and vegetables, and in the production of honey. Honey is produced in all 10 provinces and the territories. In Canada, over 13,000 beekeepers maintain more than 500,000 bee hives and

beekeeping constitutes a multi-million dollar industry.

In recent years, CFIA has undertaken a detailed review and assessment of the importation practices and rules for importing European honeybees. The CFIA worked with industry representatives, to develop protocols for the importation of European honeybees into Canada. The protocols were created as a means to ensure that European honeybees being shipped into Canada are disease free and that these bees do not pose a threat to the existing honeybee populations in Canada. As a result, only honeybees from New Zealand, Australia, and Hawaii are accepted into Canada.

There are two main environmental concerns associated with the importation of honeybees into Canada, namely the potential introduction of disease into resident honeybee populations, and the introduction of other potentially harmful bee species. The Import Requirements address these issues. The protocols outline detailed conditions that must be adhered to by importers in order to receive an import permit. The protocols have the effect of ensuring that the adverse environmental effects from the importation of certified European honeybees are not significant.

The CFIA initiated the preparation of this Model Class Screening Report to establish a more efficient and streamlined planning approach and environmental assessment procedure for the importation of certified European honeybees into Canada.

1.1 THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* is a legislated environmental assessment process designed to integrate environmental considerations into projects where there is a federal decision or responsibility, whether as any other person or body designated by the RA in accordance with Section 17(1) of the Act, land administrator, source of funding, or regulator.

The first phase of the environmental assessment process is a self-directed assessment through an environmental screening. This phase is considered self-directed because the federal Responsible Authority (RA) determines the scope of the project subject to environmental assessment (EA) and either directly conducts or manages the EA process through the proponent.

Of projects that are subject to the Act, it is likely that the vast majority will be assessed through a screening. Anticipating the potentially large number of screening, many of which are similar and result in a limited range of predictable mitigable environmental effects, the Act provides for a class screening mechanism. Section 19 of the Act provides for the declaration of Class Screening Reports.

Class screening has been developed as a two part assessment process (Figure 1):

- The **Model Class Screening Report** (Model Report or MCSR) is developed and supported by the Responsible Authority (RA) and declared by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency). The Model Report defines the requirements for environmental assessment, time periods and follow-up programs.

- The **Class Screening Project Report** (CSPR or Project Report) is the project-specific environmental assessment which is to be prepared by the RA. Together, the Model Report and the Project Report constitute the class screening as per Sections (15) 16(1) and 18(1) of the Act.

The inclusion of a planning process in the Model Report ensures that when the MCSR is accepted by the RA and declared by the Agency pursuant to Section 19 of the Act, CSPRs that are planned and implemented in accordance with the MCSR are also approved (pursuant to s.s. 20(1)(a) of the Act) provided that the CSPR fulfills the requirements presented in the MCSR.

This Model Class Screening Report:

- Outlines what the CEAA triggers for conducting an environmental screening are, and defines the scope of the MCSR (Section 2.0)

• Outlines the Model Class Screening Process for the importation of certified European honeybees under the CEAA (Section 2.0)

• Defines the need for importing certified European honeybees, and the importation process that importers must follow (Section 3.0);

• Presents an environmental review of the importation of certified European honeybees that includes a description of potential environmental significance and accepted mitigation (Section 4.0); and,

• Outlines the procedures and process to be used to prepare a Class Screening Project Report (CSPR) for each importation project (Section 5.0).

1.2 PREPARATION OF THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT

The MCSR streamlines and simplifies the environmental screening approval process for routine projects in the following ways:

• Many routine projects may be screened and a decision made by the RA under the Act after a simple CSPR form is completed by the project proponent (i.e., the importer).

• The MCSR defines the process to be followed by the RA and project proponent (i.e., honeybee importer) in preparing a CSPR. This planning process will ensure that the potential environmental effects and mitigation measures of projects within the class are considered in a consistent and efficient manner during project planning, screening, approval and implementation. Regulatory standards and the experience of current provincial governments with importing honeybees, have been used to identify potential environmental effects and mitigation measures.

• The MCSR presents a compilation of information for the importation of certified European honeybees. This information includes descriptions of importation practices, the range of typical environmental effects, and the range of standard mitigation procedures and residual effects that may result with importation of certified European honeybees from New Zealand and Australia.

• The information provided in the MCSR will reduce the amount of work that is required to prepare a CSPR.

Public consultation was conducted during the development of the MCSR (refer to Section 1.4). Consultation requirements during the preparation of a CSPR may, therefore, be reduced, as specified in Section 5.

1.3 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

As defined under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, a Responsible Authority (RA), in relation to a project, "means a federal authority that is required pursuant to subsection 11(1) to ensure that an environmental assessment of the project is conducted'. The RA for this MCSR is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, it is the federal authority responsible for issuing permits and approvals for the importation of European honeybees.

1.4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A public consultation program was pursued in the development of this MCSR which included the following components:

Key stakeholders were identified with assistance from the CFIA and from the executive members of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiarists (CAPA).

Contacts were made with CAPA representatives, provincial apiarists, and CFIA staff responsible for international importations, to identify key environmental issues associated with importation

activities and to ensure that required standards are captured in the MCSR.

Provincial apiarists and CFIA staff reviewed and commented on the draft MCSR and changes were made to the MCSR in accordance with the comments.

The MCSR is also issued for further Public Review by both *the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency* (CEAA), and by CFIA (the RA), before the Class Screening is declared by the Agency.

1.5 PUBLIC REGISTRY/ FEAI

Class Project Screening Reports (CPSRs) prepared under the MCSR will be filed in the Public Registry maintained by the Responsible Authority (RA) in each region for the purpose of facilitating public access to records relating to environmental assessments. The Model Class Screening Report will be placed in a Public Registry managed by the Agency and by the CFIA. The MCSR will also be placed on the Federal Environmental Assessment Index (FEAI), indicating the class, the RA, the location where the project specific information may be obtained and the RA contact.

Projects screened under the class will not be listed on the FEAI. Rather, the RA (CFIA) will maintain a running tally of all screening (i.e., CSPRs) completed under the class and submit the tally of all projects completed under the class to the Agency for incorporation in the FEAI biannually, at the end of each importation season (October 31st) and the end of each fiscal year (March 31st), within 30 days of each of these dates.

The rationale for this provision is:

• The potential environmental effects of these importation projects are relatively minor, predictable and mitigable, they meet the established environmental protection standards outlined in Section 4.2, are addressed in detail in the MCSR, and are unlikely to be of substantive public concern;

The class of project, potential environmental effects and planning process will have been reviewed by the public through the review of the draft MCSR; and,

The administrative burden in placing project information as a biannual tally is consistent with the public concern and environmental significance of these projects.

Projects which do not fit in the class and are subject to an individual screening, will be placed in the RA's public registry and on the FEAI as per the RA's current practice.

1.6 AMENDING THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT

The purpose of an amending procedure is to allow for the modification of the Model Class Screening Report after experience has been gained with its operation and effectiveness. The reasons for such modifications are provided below:

• Clarification of ambiguous areas of the document and procedures.

• Streamlining or modifying the planning process in areas where problems may have arisen.

· Minor modifications and revisions to the scope of the assessment to reflect new or changed regulatory requirements, policies or standards (i.e., if new importation protocols are created which indicate that there will be insignificant adverse environmental effects from importing certified European honeybees from other countries, then these countries could be added to the scope of this MCSR).

Extension of the application of the MCSR to projects that were not previously included but are analogous to projects included in the class definition (e.g., the importation of other non-domestic animals).

In order to facilitate the above, the CFIA will, as it becomes necessary, amend the Model Class Screening Report according to the procedure outlined in Appendix A.

The CFIA will review with the Agency the performance of the MCSR within two years of the anniversary of the declaration of the Class Screening report in consultation with stakeholders and the public and will make any amendments considered necessary in accord with the amendment mechanism.

2.0 THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING PROCESS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

2.1 CLASS SCREENING

The concept of a class environmental assessment process is based on the assumption that in practice, class screens apply to projects that:

- Are relatively routine or repetitive;
- Usually result in environmental effects that are well understood or predictable; and,
- The environmental effects can be mitigated using accepted methods such that significant environmental effects will not occur.

In order for the Act to be triggered a proposed development must:

- Be a "project": Under the Act, a "project"includes "a physical activity not relating to a physical work that is listed in the Inclusion List Regulations to the Act";
- Not be listed in the Exclusion List Regulation to the Act or otherwise be excluded; and,

A Federal Authority is required to exercise or perform one or more of the following duties relating to the project:

- Propose the project;
- Grant the money or any other form of financial assistance to the project;
- Grant an interest in land in order for the project to be carried out; or,
- Exercise a regulatory duty in relation to a project, such as issuing a permit or license, that is included in the Law List Regulation.

When an environmental screening is required, the federal authority shall ensure that it is conducted as early as practicable in the planning stages of the projects and before irrevocable decisions are made (Section 11(1) of the Act).

2.2 THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES AND HOW THIS TRIGGERS CEAA

The projects that are subject to this MCSR are:

> *The importation of certified European honeybees from the countries of New Zealand and Australia.*

The issuing of permits under article 10(1) a of the Health of Animal Act triggers the need for an assessment :

a) Included Projects

The importation of certified European honeybees is a physical activity not relating to a physical work that is listed in the Inclusion List Regulation. project requiring . Section 78 of the Inclusion List Regulations addresses the importation of non-domestic animals.

The importation of certified European honeybees is therefore a "project" within the meaning of the Act, and this project is not listed in the Exclusion List Regulations nor otherwise excluded.

b) Federal Authority

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is a federal authority within the meaning of the Act

c) Triggers under CEAA

The issuance by CFIA (the "federal authority") of permits under 10(1) a of the Health of Animal Act , for the purpose of authorizing the importation of certified European honeybees from the countries of New Zealand and Australia (the "project") is a regulatory duty that is included in the Law List Regulations (Section 5(1) b) of the Act and Section 10 of Schedule 1. Part 11 of the Law List Regulations)".

2.3 MODEL CLASS SCREENING PROCESS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

2.3.1 Development of the Model Class Screening Process for the Class

The process through which the MCSR was developed and with which screening of individual projects are to be conducted involves four steps which are briefly described as follows, and are illustrated in Figure 1.

Step 1: Define the class of project

Given the requirements of the Inclusion List Regulations the activities involved in the importation of honeybees were reviewed to determine the scope of the project subject to screening and to define the relevant CEAA triggers (see Section 2.2). The project for this MCSR is considered to be routine, repetitive and relatively small in scale and size and thus amenable to class screening. The scope of the class of projects subject to this class screening is :

- The importation of certified European honeybees from the countries of New Zealand and Australia.

Step 2: Conduct an environmental review of the project

The second step in the development of the class screening process was to conduct an assessment of the environmental effects of the projects that constitute the class. This involved:

- Describing the need for the importation of certified European honeybees (which constitutes the class), describing the importation practices, including the seasons when importation takes place;

- Describing the current types of regulatory requirements and standards for importing certified European honeybees into Canada;

- Describing the environments that are potentially affected by the importation of certified European honeybees, assessing the potential environmental effects, and identifying any mitigation measures that may be necessary to avoid or minimize any potential adverse environmental effects that could result from the importation of honeybees into Canada; and,

- Describing the significance of potential residual environmental effects.

A discussion is also provided on the likelihood of accidents and malfunctions that could cause negative environmental effects, as well as potential cumulative environmental effects.

Step 3: Develop screening criteria and a screening form

As a result of the environmental review described in "Step 2", screening criteria were identified which all projects (i.e., honeybee imports) under the MCSR must adhere to. The screening criteria were formulated as questions so that they could be incorporated in a project screening form that can be completed by the importer (proponent) and is linked to the CFIA's importation permit. A copy of the form is provided in Section 5.0 (see Figure 2). The form constitutes the Class Screening Project Report (CSPR), and when completed by the importer of certified European honeybees, is to be submitted to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The CSPR form requires that the proponent provide specific information on the importation project, and that the proponent meets or exceeds the screening criteria. The CSPR is reviewed by the CFIA who will make a decision pursuant to Section 20(1) of the Act.

Step 4: Incorporate/ Document in the Model Class Screening Report (MCSR)

The overall results of the environmental review and the screening criteria were then documented in the MCSR.

2.3.2 Implementation Of The Model Class Screening Process

The process through which the MCSR is implemented on individual projects involves three steps which are briefly outlined as follows, and are illustrated in Figure 1. A complete discussion of the class screening process and procedures is presented in Section 5.

Step 1: Determining if the project is subject to CEAA and the MCSR

The proponent must indicate on the CSPR form the type of project (i.e., what is being imported) by answering a question regarding the species to be imported and the source country. The RA, when reviewing the completed CSPR, will utilize this information to confirm that the project (a) is subject to the Act; and (b) is subject to this MCSR. If the project does not trigger the Act, it is excluded from the MCSR. If the project triggers the Act but does not meet the definition of the class described in this MCSR (see Section 2.2), the RA will re-classify the project as an individual screening.

Step 2: Determining whether a project has significant environmental effects

To allow the RA to determine whether the project (i.e., importation) will have adverse environmental effects, the proponent is required to provide information addressing the screening criteria for the class of projects which were developed through the Model Class Screening Process. These criteria have been incorporated into the following two key requirements:

- Imported honeybees must originate from New Zealand or Australia

- Only certified European honeybees

If the proponent answers "no" to both the questions posed on the CSPR form, then the RA may conclude that the project does not cause significant adverse environmental effects. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency may then make a decision in accordance with section 20(1)(a) of CEAA. In this case the CFIA may proceed with the preparation of the importation permit. Detailed information on preparing the Class Screening Project Report (the form) is provided in Section 5.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, as the RA, will make a decision on the importation of certified European

honeybees based on using the following criteria:

- routine, repetitive and use will-understood technology;
- create no significant environmental impacts; and,
- abide by the mitigation methods outlined in the MCSR.

Step 3: Determining whether a project should be reclassified to an individual screening

If, upon completion of the Class Screening Project Report (form), the proponent answers "yes" to either of the questions, the RA will continue with an individual screening and, in doing so, require the importer to address the outstanding environmental issues. In this MCSR:

- European honeybees are products of countries other than Australia, New Zealand,
- European honeybees are not certified.
- Species other than certified European honey bees

In the event of reclassification, the importation project will be removed from the class screening process and the proponent will be required to prepare an individual screening under the Act.

2.3.3 Responsibilities, Time Lines and Public Review

The responsibilities of the proponent and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in the Class Screening Process are outlined below:

- It will be the responsibility of the proponent (the importer) to prepare a Class Screening Project Report.
- It will be the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that all information provided in the CSPR form is accurate. The proponent will be required to sign a statement to this effect. If it becomes known that inaccurate information has been provided by the proponent, the CEAA decision and subsequent approval may be invalidated.

It will be the responsibility of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to:

- Provide the Class Screening Project Report form, and appropriate information and advice to the proponent;
- Review the completed screening form; and,
- Make a decision on the proposed importation project pursuant to Section 20(1) of the Act, or reclassify the project to an individual screening.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, will review all importation of certified European honeybees projects and provide a response to the proponent as soon as possible, and within the following time frames when there are no outstanding issues.

- For Class Screening Projects: the import officer will sign the Class Screening Project Report (Figure2), if the bees originate from New Zealand and or Australia and are certified European Honey bees
- For those projects which are reclassified from a Class Screening to an individual screening, notification of this reclassification will be provided as soon as possible.

The Class Screening Project Reports (the Forms) are available at the following location(s):

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa; and,

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency regional offices.

3.0 THE NEED FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEY BEES AND A DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTATION PRACTICES

3.1 THE NEED FOR IMPORTING CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

In Canada, 13,000 beekeepers maintain more than 500,000 bee hives. Canadian beekeepers have one of the highest honey yields in the world as a result of a northern climate with long days, vast expanses of clover, alfalfa and canola, and by using sophisticated management practices.

Average honey production in Canada is 60 kg per hive, twice the world average. Canada is the fifth largest producer of honey in the world, behind China, the United States, Mexico, and Argentina. Honey is produced in all 10 provinces and territories and is currently valued at over $50 million (1998) in farm gate receipts. Alberta is the largest producer providing approximately 12.3 million kg per year, followed by Saskatchewan at 7.7 million kg, and Manitoba at 6.1 million kg. It takes 500 worker bees a full season to gather one pound of honey. For that pound, they will tap about two million flowers and fly more than 55,000 miles. Individual honeybees make 25 trips a day, visiting more than 1,000 flowers.

Honeybees also play an essential role in the pollination of fruits and vegetables which require insects to move pollen from plant to plant. Fruit and vegetable producers rent beehives from beekeepers in the spring to make sure this pollination takes place. It has been estimated that honeybees pollination contributes up to $500 million annually to agriculture production in Canada.

Honeybees also produce valuable non-food use products which include:

- beeswax for candles and in household products such as polishes;

- pollen, which is rich in protein and used as a diet supplement;

- propolis, which is becoming widely known and accepted as an ingredient in cosmetics and lip balms, as well as a tonic; and,

- royal jelly, a special feed produced by worker bees and fed to the queen bee, used in skin creams and lotions, and gaining a reputation as having a beneficial effect on aging skin creams and cleansers.

As honey and other non-food use products are a viable industry, it is necessary to maintain the bee hives. The Canadian honeybees industry is almost self-sufficient in bees, however, every winter many honeybees do not survive Canada's long cold winters, even after the hives have been winterized. Parasites also kill off a number of hives, decreasing the numbers of worker bees available to produce honey. As a result, Canada imports European honeybees to maintain the numbers required for honey production. Approximately 8,000 packages of honeybees,(two pounds of bees with a queen) and 150,000 queen bees are imported each year from Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia.

3.2 IMPORTATION PRACTICES

3.2.1 Historical Context

Prior to 1987, Canada imported European honeybees from a number of countries, including the United States. However, two significant events took place that changed Canada 's import practices such that only honeybees

from Australia, New Zealand, and queen honeybees from Hawaii were permitted for import into Canada. The events were the spread and infestation of the deadly varroa mites, and the spread of an aggressive species of honeybees (Africanized honeybees) throughout the continents.

3.2.2 Varroa Mites

The Varroa mite (Varroa Jacobsoni) is a specialized parasite that only affects honeybees. With its specialized mouth parts it feeds on bee brood and adults. Its own brood development and life cycle is closely synchronized with bee brood development. Without mite controls, entire colonies would die.

The Varroa mite is found extensively throughout Europe and the United States. Canadian honey industry representatives worked closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to create international Import Requirements in an effort to stop the mite infestation from spreading through Canada. At present, there are numerous areas across Canada that have been infested by the mites (as well as other less common mites, such as the tracheal mite, which have also been imported into the country), however, there are still huge tracts of land in the country that are mite free. Each province has taken on the responsibility, through legislation and transportation policies, to control and eliminate the diseases that affect bee populations.

The countries of Australia and New Zealand are the only countries that have been proven to be mite-free, and thus offer Canada a disease-free source of European honeybees. The state of Hawaii has not been able to provide enough surveillance data to assure Canada that they are completely mite-free. However, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Canadian Association of Professional Apiarists (CAPA) have agreed that queen honeybees only could be imported into Canada from Hawaii as they are much easier to monitor for disease. In any event, Canada reserves the right to revoke these countries' honeybees export privileges if at any point in time the varroa mite is found in any of these countries.

3.2.3 Africanized Honeybees

Another problem that has the potential to impact honeybee populations and the honeybee industry is the infiltration of the Africanized honeybees into Canada. At present, Canada is closely monitoring the movement of Africanized honeybees in Central and South America, that are now being found in certain areas in the United States. This breed of honeybee is known to be very aggressive and potentially harmful for beekeepers and the public. For example, Africanized honeybees have been responsible for two deaths in Texas since 1990, 150 deaths in Mexico, and 1000 in Brazil since 1957. Besides being aggressive, Africanized honeybees can take over existing colonies of European honeybees and the European queens and their colonies are not able to survive the overwhelming competition from feral African populations.

The countries of Australia, New Zealand, and the state of Hawaii are all free of Africanized honeybees, once again making them eligible to export honeybees to Canada. However, should at some point in time Africanized bees be found in any of these countries, the right to import bees to Canada may be revoked.

3.2.4 Import Requirements and Permits

The current Canadian import process for the importation of European honeybees is as follows:

First, the importer must conduct an environmental screening to ensure that there will be no adverse environmental effects resulting from the importation of European honeybees into Canada. Second, the environmental screening is submitted to an Import Officer at CFIA who is responsible for making a decision in accordance with Section 20(1) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. The screening is then forwarded to the Environmental Officer at CFIA Headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario.

Only after the CFIA has made a screening decision under CEAA, can the importer complete an "Application for Permit to Import Animals" which is required in accordance with the *Health of Animals Act and Regulations*. Next, the import officer must ensure that the importer has met the permit's detailed set of selection conditions prior to issuing the import permit. The conditions are for the "Import of Honey Queen Bees" and the "Import of Packages of Honeybees". These conditions, in part, specify the certification requirements, the health requirements, and the inspection requirements needed prior to importing European honeybees. These requirements are also spelled

out in the individual Import Requirements that were derived for the countries of Australia, New Zealand, and the state of Hawaii.

The Import Requirements, which are tailored for each of the three honeybees exporters mentioned above, were created as a result of the ban on the importation of honeybees into Canada from the United States (January 1, 1988) under the *Honeybees Prohibition Regulations* of the *Health of Animals Act*. The Import Requirements are very rigid and lay out the conditions through which honeybees are certified (health certificate) and thus eligible for entry into Canada. For example, the following demonstrates in general terms some of the requirements for certification that the three countries must adhere to. Certification requires that:

- the bees are a product of the export country;
- mites and Africanized honeybees do not exist in the country;
- the bees are disease free;
- the bees are derived from an apiary, or apiaries, that are registered and comply with the National legislation and its amendments
- the food supplied for the bees during shipment does not contain honey;
- the bees will be shipped by air in accordance to the routes and rules outlined in each separate protocol; and,
- the bees will be inspected upon arrival in Canada.

Consequently, the certification process under the Import Requirements serves as a screening mechanism to ensure that imported bees are disease free and are an acceptable species.

3.2.5 Import Seasons

Import seasons in Canada for the importation of honeybees are usually only between the months of April through to the end of June. Rarely are honeybees imported after May as the bees must start collecting pollen early in the season and the queen bees need time to expand their colonies.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The following section provides background on the environmental conditions for importing European honeybees. Next, is a discussion of the potential environmental effects and a discussion on the significance of the effects. Finally, discussions are provided on residual effects, malfunctions and accidents, cumulative environmental effects and follow-up and monitoring.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

History

The true honeybee is not native to the Americas. In the early part of the 16th century, European settlers introduced the first honeybees colonies to North America. Over the years, honeybees escaped into the wild and had become well established throughout the continent by the late 19th century. Eventually, honeybees came to be regarded as a natural part of the insect world of North America.

Species

The first type of honeybees introduced into Canada was a gentle subspecies of the ***Apis mellifera*** which means

honey carrier. ***Apis mellifera*** is commonly found today in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, and the Americas. There are 24 subspecies of ***Apis mellifera*** are recognized. The various races exhibit morphological behavioral and physiological differences in characteristics, such as body colour, body size, aggressiveness and foraging range. All the subspecies of ***Apis mellifera*** can mate within the races.

Our familiar garden variety honeybee is a mixture of European races, each of which has its own advantages and disadvantages for the bee keeping industry. The two most common European honeybees are the Italian Bees (***Apis mellifera ligustica***) which are the most popular among commercial beekeepers. The Caucasian bees (***Apis mellifera caucasica***) are docile.

As discussed in Section 3.2, Canada currently imports only European species of honeybees from New Zealand, Australia, and Hawaii as their honeybees have been proven to be disease-free and there are no Africanized honeybees found in these countries.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

The development of this model class screening report included a detailed review of literature on the species ***Apis mellifera*** and apiculture, advice from experts and apiarists, and a review of a Canadian Risk Assessment on importing honeybees from the United States. Based on the information obtained through these efforts, it was concluded that there are only three potential environmental effects to take into consideration when importing certified European honeybees into Canada. The three potential effects are (1) impacts on native bee populations, (2) increase in disease through varroa mite infestations, and (3) a potential negative effect on human health and safety.

4.3.1 Effects on Native Bee Populations

Studies over the years have indicated that the introduction of European honeybees may at one time have had an effect on the native bee populations. Many of the most serious impacts of honeybee colonists on native bees and plants occurred during the first 50 years following their introduction into North America in the 16 th century. It has been predicted that there was a "scramble competition" by honeybees, or in other words, the disruption of many plant/pollinator relationships by a single dominant exotic. To date, there are very few " pristine" environments free of honeybees in the world. All of the provinces and territories in Canada have been exposed to the European species of honeybees and Canadian honeybee populations have become, as noted earlier, a mixture of European races. The importation of European honeybees into Canada are thus not considered a threat to native bee populations any longer as the damage was done years ago.

Africanized honeybees, on the other hand, are an aggressive species that can overwhelm existing colonies and populations with a resultant negative environmental impact on native populations and on the apiculture industry. Consequently, Canada does not allow the importation of Africanized honeybees.

Current effects on native bee populations are blamed on present-day practices with pesticides, and the removal of bee habitat through development or human intervention on flower species (i.e., removal of "weed" plants). Such actions have resulted in decreased native bee populations over the years.

4.3.2 Increase in Disease through Varroa Mite Infestations

As noted in Section 3.2, the Varroa mite is a parasite that can infest and destroy entire honeybee colonies. The importation of European honeybees from countries other than New Zealand, Australia, and the State of Hawaii have in the past resulted in varroa mite infestations. To help control and limit (i.e., mitigate) the spread of this parasite, the Canadian government has put in place strict importation protocols and requirements for the import of honeybees. Another mitigative measure is that all bees being imported into Canada undergo mandatory inspections at the Canadian border (see discussion in Section 3.2) to ensure that mites are not brought into the country. Current importation practices for European honeybees serve to control the spread of disease.

As mentioned in Section 3.2, there is currently a mite infestation problem in many parts of Canada. Varroa has been found in most provinces and only certain sections are mite free. For example, Saskatchewan is virtually mite free, as is Northern Manitoba, parts of Alberta, and areas northwest of Prince George, British Columbia.

Currently each province, as a form of mitigation, is implementing their own disease control policies to try and control the mites. Some of the provinces have legislation to control the spread of disease. Much research and literature is also available to beekeepers to help them in the control of the mites in the hives. However, many scientists predict that if the current populations of mites continue infesting Canadian bee colonies and cannot be controlled, the issue of importing mite-free honeybees may well become a non-issue. If Canada is infested, the strict protocols may not be necessary.

4.3.3 Human Health and Safety

With the introduction of new bee populations into a new habitat there is sometimes the fear that the bees could pose a threat to public health and safety. The species of European honeybees being imported from New Zealand, Australia, and Hawaii, are a gentle species of ***Apis mellifera***. These species have been safely imported into Canada for years and have been a minimal danger to nearby human populations. Swarming is not an issue since, as mentioned earlier, European honeybees are a gentle species of ***Apis mellifera*** and are not nearly as aggressive as the Africanized bees, nor are they deadly to humans.

Honeybees actually serve to improve human health. For example, one third of North American food production is the direct result of pollination by insects, including honeybees. Honeybees also produce valuable non-food products that are beneficial to human health (see Section 3.1). Consequently, honeybees will remain an important part of the Canadian environment and play a role in maintaining food supplies for human health.

4.3.4 Concluding Comments

As discussed above, there are minimal if any environmental effects that will take place with the importation of certified European honeybees from the countries of New Zealand, Australia, and the State of Hawaii. The strict permit process and the presence of the Import Requirements serve as mitigative measures that ensure that the bees being imported are free from disease and are not the Africanized species. In conclusion, the environmental effects are not deemed significant.

4.4 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

With the presence of orchards, honeybees help in the pollination of fruit trees and other plants (see section 3.1). Therefore, the introduction of honeybees to the environment could result in environmental as well as economic benefits. Honeybees have been studied for years and subject to extensive scientific work that have shown that no significant residual impacts result from the importation of European honeybees provided that certain importation criteria are met.

4.5 MALFUNCTIONS AND ACCIDENTS

During importation there is no risk to Canada as the host country is responsible for the bees. Once the honeybees arrive in Canada there is the remote chance that they could escape before the bees are delivered to their respective destinations. However, this is not an issue as the bees are disease free and were permitted for import into Canada versus import to a specific region in a Province. Many of the provinces have strict transportation policies in place for the movement of bees which could serve as mitigation by lessening the chances of escape incidents.

4.6 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Cumulative effects assessment should take into account that although individual importation projects that do not result in significant environmental effects, in combination with other projects they may have adverse cumulative effects. However, it is reasonable to assume that because there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects (see section 4.3), that there are beneficial residual effects (see section 4.4), that native bee populations have already been affected, and, that the number of imported bees is proportionately low in comparison to Canada's large area of land mass, that there are no adverse cumulative environmental effects are likely to occur as a result of the import of certified European honeybees. On the other hand, allowing Africanized or other unacceptable species of honeybees into the Canadian environment would likely result in potentially adverse direct and cumulative environmental effects.

4.7 FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING

Based on the information presented in the preceding sections, the importation of honey bees into Canada has little, if any adverse environmental effects provided that the imports consist of Certified European honeybees as specified by the Importation Protocols. The monitoring of environmental affects is not considered to be warranted. Further, each province has policies and, in some cases, legislation in place for the maintenance of hives, the transportation of bees, the management and control of disease, and the inspection of individual bee colonies. All of these policies and procedures can facilitate follow up monitoring through cooperation with the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) and/or with the Canadian Honey Council.

It is important to note that CFIA takes all possible measures to assure that imported honey bees are disease free. Furthermore, the information gathered from the import protocal (Appendix) can be used for follow up monitoring.

4.8 CLASS SCREENING CRITERIA

The foregoing assessment of the potential environmental implications of importing European honeybees into Canada has revealed that the existing importation protocols and procedures and the certification requirements have the effect of minimizing potential adverse environmental affects that could arise from honeybee importation practices. The following environmental screening criteria are based on the importation protocols and are to be used in the environmental assessment of specific import applications. The screening criteria require that:

- Imported honeybees be from New Zealand or Australia;

- Only certified, European honeybees are acceptable.

These criteria have been incorporated in the CSPR form (refer to Section 5.0, Figure 2).

5.0 THE CLASS SCREENING PROCESS FOR ROUTINE PROJECTS

5.1 PREPARING THE CLASS SCREENING PROJECT REPORTS (FORM)

The information included in this MCSR provides the background environmental and project information necessary to prepare the Class Screening Project Report (the form) for the importation of certified European honeybees into Canada (see Figure 2). It is the responsibility of the project proponent (the importer) to provide the necessary information for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Responsible Authority (RA), to reach a decision on project approval. This information will be provided through completion of a Class Screening Project Report (the form) that is to be attached to the Import Permit that is required under the *Health of Animals Act and Regulations*.

The Class Screening Project Report (the form) will be completed by the proponent and submitted to the CFIA, where a decision will made based on the information provided on the Form (through Section 20(1) of CEAA). A decision could also determine whether a project should be excluded from the class screening process and additional information be requested. Such an exclusion will require that the proponent conduct an individual screening for the importation project.

5.2 COMPLETING THE CLASS SCREENING PROJECT REPORT (FORM)

The Class Screening Project Report (the form) is to be completed by importers requesting to import European honeybees into Canada, and the completed form is to be submitted to the import officer at the CFIA who will then forward the form to the CFIA Environment Officer.

Information and copies of forms can be obtained from the CFIA Regional Offices.

The first section of the class screening form asks the proponent for general information including name and address.

The second section of the class screening form asks the proponent to answer two questions which will determine whether their importation project is covered under the Class Screening process.

The third section of the class screening form explains how the proponent can determine whether they have met the requirements of the Class Screening Process. Proponents who answered No to the questions are required to sign the completed form, and submit it to the CFIA Regional Office where the import permit will be issued. The addresses and contacts in CFIA regional offices are presented in Appendix B.

Figure 1 - Importation of Certified European Honey Bees Screening Process Steps

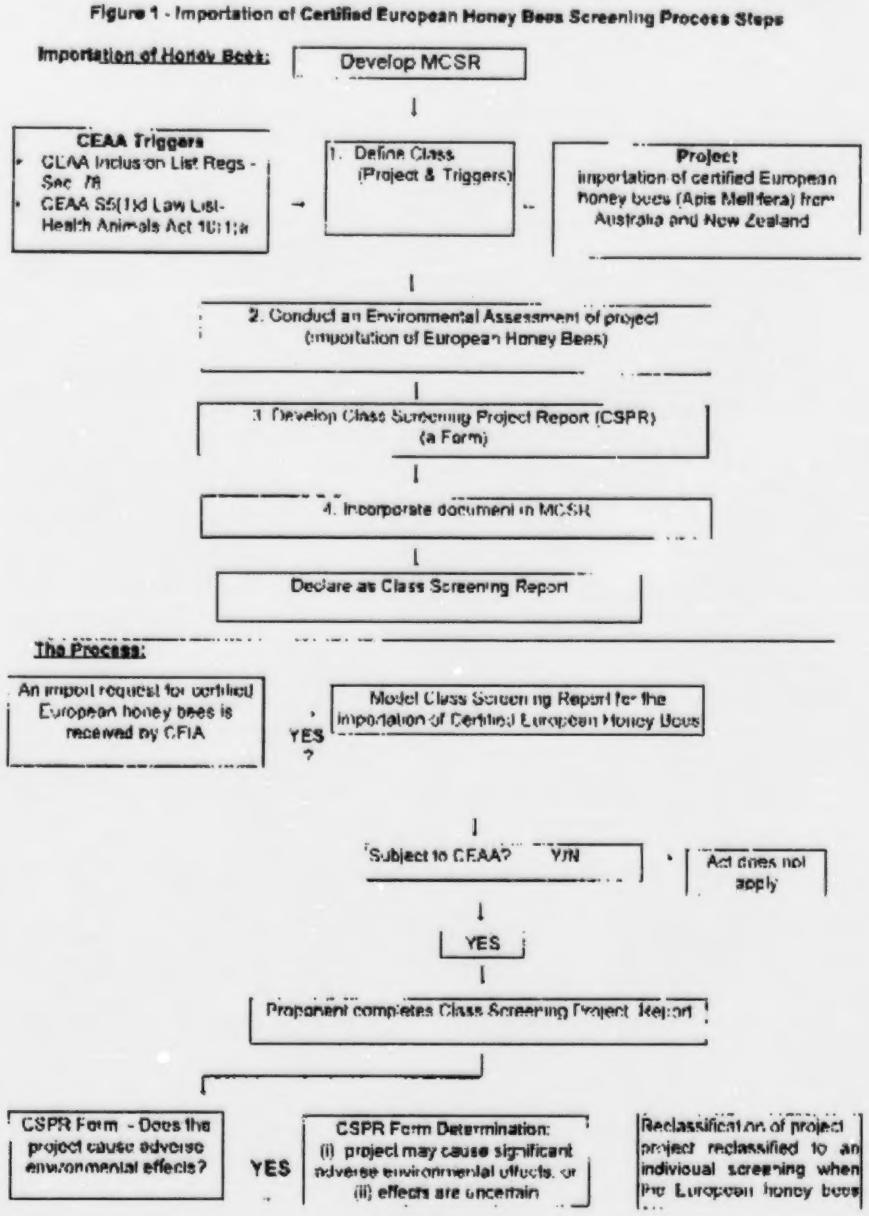
Figure 1 - Importation of Certified European Honey Bees Screening Process Steps
Importation of Honey Bees:
Develop MCSR
CEAA Triggers
CEAA Inclusion List Regs - Sec 78
CEAA S5(1)d Law List- Health Animals Act 10;1;a
1. Define Class (Project & Triggers)
Project
Importation of certified European honey bees (Apis Mellifera) from Australia and New Zealand
2. Conduct an Environmental Assessment of project (importation of European Honey Bees)
3. Develop Class Screening Project Report (CSPR) (a Form)
4. Incorporate document in MCSR
Declare as Class Screening Report
The Process:
An import request for certified European honey bees is received by CFIA
YES ?
Model Class Screening Report for the importation of Certified European Honey Bees
Subject to CEAA? Y/N
Act does not apply
YES
Proponent completes Class Screening Project Report
CSPR Form - Does the project cause adverse environmental effects?
YES
CSPR Form Determination: (i) project may cause significant adverse environmental effects, or (ii) effects are uncertain
Reclassification of project project reclassified to an individual screening when the European honey bees

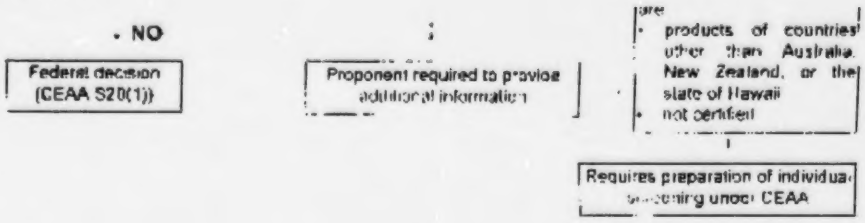
NO
Federal decision (CEAA S20(1))
Proponent required to provide additional information
products of countries other than Australia, New Zealand, or the state of Hawaii
not certified
Requires preparation of individual screening under CEAA

Figure 2

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY

CLASS SCREENING PROJECT REPORT FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CERTIFIED EUROPEAN HONEYBEES

Section 1:

Name of Importer: _____

Address of Importer: _____

_____

Phone Number: _____

Permit Number: _____

Import Officer: _____

Section 2: Please answer the following questions:

Are you proposing to import European Honeybees that are products of countries other than New Zealand and Australia

YES_____ **NO**_____

Are you proposing to import European honeybees that are NOT certified in accordance with the above mentioned countries' Import Requirements?

YES_____ **NO**_____

Please sign and submit this form to the CFIA Regional Office. This Class Screening Project Report Form has been prepared pursuant to the Model Class Screening Report for the Importation of European Honeybees into Canada.

As the proponent for the proposed importation project, I guarantee that to the best of my knowledge all information provided here is correct.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, your importation project requires an individual environmental screening under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The project is NOT covered by this Class Screening process.

APPENDIX A

PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING A MODEL CLASSS CREENING REPORT

The procedure to be followed for amending the Model Class Screening Report is as follows:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will notify the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) in writing of its intention to modify the Class Screening report.

Where the proposed modifications are minor or represent editorial changes to clarify or improve the screening process and do not materially alter either the scope of the projects subject to Class Screening or the scope of assessment required for these projects, CFIA may discuss the proposed amendment(s) with the Agency, stakeholders, and public groups, to invite public comment on the proposed changes and submit the amended Class Screening report and a statement of the rationale for the modifications to the Agency. The amended document will be incorporated in the public registry maintained by the Agency.

Where the proposed amendment represents minor modifications and revisions to the scope of assessment, the CFIA will discuss the proposed amendment(s) with the Agency, stakeholders and public groups, invite public comment on the proposed changes and submit the amended Class screening report and a statement of the rationale for the modifications to the Agency. The Agency may, where the proposed amendments are considered to be substantial and after consulting with the RA and affected groups, re-declare the report to be a Class Screening report following the requirements of Sections 19(1),(2) and (3) of the Act for either the remaining balance of the declaration period or for a new five year period; or the Agency may accept the amended document to the public registry maintained by the Agency while not changing the declaration period.

Where the proposed amendment represents a significant modification to the scope of projects subject to class assessment and/or additions or deletions of project classes and/or a significant change to the scope of the environmental assessment of individual projects and/or a reduction in the level of public participation required on individual project screening, the RA will discuss the proposed amendment(s) with the Agency, stakeholders and public groups, invite public comment

on the proposed changes and submit the amended Class Screening report to the Agency. The Agency may re-declare the report to be a Class *Screening* report following the requirements of Sections 19(1),(2), and (3) of the Act for either the remaining balance of the declaration period or for a new five year period. The amended document will be placed in the public registry maintained by the Agency.

Appendix B

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Area Offices

Enquires should be forwarded to the Import Program Officer, Animal Health

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Regional Offices

Appendix C

Import Requirement

Page 1

Page 2

Page 3

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Canadian Food Inspection Agency REGIONAL OFFICES
BUREAU RÉGIONAL/ACIA

Atlantic Provinces
(New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island)

Dr. Al McLean
Import/Export, Animal Health
CFIA
P.O. Box 6088
5th Floor
1081 Main Street
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 8R2
Tel: (506) 851-7651
Fax: (506) 851-2689

Québec

Dr. Danielle Lagrenade/Donata Fazio
Import Officer, Animal Health
CFIA
Room 746-S
2001 University Avenue
Montréal, Québec
H3A 3N2
Tel: (514) 283-8888
Fax: (514) 283-6214

Ontario

Dr. Mike Soots/Kelly Brown
Import Officer, Animal Health
CFIA
174 Stone Road West
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4S9
Tel: (519) 837-9400
Fax: (519) 837-9773

Mid-West Region
(Manitoba and Saskatchewan)

Dr. Blaine Thompson
Import/Export, Animal Health
CFIA
613 - 269 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1B2
Tel: (204) 983-7441
Fax: (204) 983-8022

Alberta

Dr. Ken Orchard/Mr. Peter Szarkowi
Import/Export, Animal Health
CFIA
Harry Hays Bldg.
220 - 4th Ave. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4X3
Tel: (403) 292-5825
Fax. (403) 292-6629

British Columbia

Dr. Don Olson
Animal Health
CFIA
202 - 620 Royal Avenue
New Westminster, British Columbia
V3L 5A8
Tel: (604) 666-7500
Fax: (604) 666-1963

DECEMBER 1998

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Import Requirement

09-Feb-1999
Page: 1

Import Details for Requirement: 19990 Version: 1

HS Code: 010690

01 Live animals
06 Other live animals
90 Other live animals

OGD Extension: 016187

0161 Insects and other organisms
67 Honey bees (other than queens)

Origin: NZ

Oceania
New Zealand

Instructions and Recommendations to Customs

========== IMPORTER / BROKER INSTRUCTIONS ==========

DOCUMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS:

IMPORT PERMIT
- needed to import the animal or product at the time of import
- please contact local CFIA office to apply for an import permit BEFORE the animal(s) or thing(s) are imported

EXPORT CERTIFICATE
- is issued by the exporting country
- Must contain all statements and information as required by the Permit to Import Animals.

CONDITIONS OF IMPORT

The original or a copy of the signed original of this permit and any other necessary import / export documentation pertaining to the shipment of animal(s) or thing(s) must be provided for inspection at the first port of entry to a Canadian Food Inspection Agency Import Service Center

The conditions in this permit can only be changed or amended by a CFIA inspector. Any change to the permit by an unauthorized person will render the permit invalid.

Accompanying export documentation must be issued in either English or French

The export documentation must clearly describe the shipment and the country of origin and must have been issued by an official agricultural officer of the federal government of the country of origin

Should the disease status of the country of origin change between the time of issuance of this permit and the time of shipment, the import shipment may be refused entry into Canada or be subject to additional quarantine and testing or treatment. Importers will be responsible for any additional incurred costs

The bees or germplasm must originate from an apiary certified free from Africanized genetics.

1) Africanized genetics must not be known to occur in the apiary of origin.

The bee(s) must originate from an apiary, certified free from American foulbrood

1) The apiary of origin must not have had any clinical or epidemiological evidence of American foulbrood (Bacillus larvae). Alternatively, the apiary of origin must not have had any clinical or epidemiological evidence for a minimum of six (6) months following depopulation and treatment or burning of beehive equipment on the affected premises

AIRS **Import Requirement** 09-Feb-1999

The bees or germplasm must originate from an apiary certified free from Asian mites (Tropilaelaps clareae).

*) The bees or germplasm must originate from an apiary free from clinical or epidemiological evidence of asian mites (Tropilaelaps clareae)

The bee(s) must originate from an apiary, certified free from European foulbrood

*) The apiary of origin must not have had any clinical or epizootiological evidence of European foulbrood (Streptococcus pluton)

The bee(s) or germplasm must originate from an apiary certified free from tracheal mites (Acarapis woodi)

1) The bee(s) or donor bee(s) must be originate from an apiary which satisfies the OIE requirements for sanitary surveillance and breeding techniques necessary for freedom from tracheal mites for at least the past two (2) years

The bee(s) or germplasm must originate from an apiary certified free from varroa (Varroa jacobsoni)

1) The bees or germplasm must originate exclusively from an apiary situated in the centre of a zone of fifty (50) km in radius, in which specific agnostic tests have shown the absence of varroasis for at least the past two (2) years.

The bees being presented for importation must have been derived from an apiary or apiaries, registered, inspected, and complying with the Apiaries Act 1969 and its amendments.

Feed supplied to the bees during transit must not contain honey, or, if honey is used, the honey must have been irradiated. A declaration to this effect, signed by the shipper must accompany the shipment.

The animal(s), germplasm or thing(s) described on this permit must be shipped by the most direct and appropriate route from the point of export to the address of destination in Canada. Transshipment through another country requires written authorization from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

1) Written approval for routing of the shipment of animals through another country must be attached to the permit and accompany the shipment. Animals or germplasm must not be off loaded at any port of call or route.

Subsequent to presentation for inspection at the first port of entry, the animal(s) or thing(s) described on this permit must proceed directly from the port of entry to the premises previously approved by an inspector designated under the Health of Animals Act and indicated on this permit.

The importer is responsible for all costs incurred or associated with any testing or treatment of the animal(s) or thing(s) that may be required under the import permit or under the authority of the Health of Animals Act or the Health of Animals Regulations. The importer shall pay all fees for services required in respect of the importation under the National Animal Health Program Cost Recovery Fees Regulations in place at the time of importation.

Consideration of an application necessary for issuance of a permit to import the described animal or thing is subject to Class 1 fees.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) came into force in 1995. Paragraph 10(1)(e) of the Health of Animals Regulations was placed on the Law List of CEAA. As a result, an environmental assessment of the premises of destination must be completed before an import permit can be issued for alternative livestock species. The importer is responsible for having the necessary environmental assessments conducted prior to application for an import permit.

Failure to comply with the conditions contained in this permit or with the provisions of the Health of Animals Act and Regulations may result in the cancellation of this permit and will result in the forfeiture to the Crown of the animal(s) or thing(s) imported or in the removal of the animal(s) or thing(s) from Canada, all without compensation to, and at the expense of the importer. No person shall import any animal(s) or thing(s) into Canada from any country unless the animal(s) or thing(s) meet the conditions that are shown on the export certificate issued by the exporting country. The importer(s) are responsible for the animal (s) or thing(s) imported, their health, fitness, soundness, freedom from disease, active or latent and genetic or other defects. Where the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) carries out tests and takes precautions when animal(s) or thing(s) are imported into Canada to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of disease in Canada, such tests and precautions do not constitute and are not a warranty, guarantee, assurance, undertaking or anything similar that the animals imported are healthy, fit, sound, free from disease, active or latent or genetic or other defects and such tests and precautions do not relieve or lessen the importer's responsibility as set out above. The importer, his heirs, executors, successors and assigns release and discharges Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and the CFIA of and from all claims and demands, damages, actions or causes of

http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/images/Nzbeep2e.gif 08/18/2000

AIRS

Import Requirement

09-Feb-1999
Page: 3

action arising or to arise by reason of the importation of the animals and agrees to indemnify and save harmless Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and the CFIA from and against all actions, damages, claims and demands which may be brought in respect of or arising out of the importation of such animal(s) or thing(s), their health, fitness soundness, freedom or otherwise from diseases, active or latent, genetic or other defects.

The issuance of the permit does not relieve the owner or the importer of the obligation to comply with any other relevant federal, provincial or municipal legislation or requirement

The terms used in the accompanying export documentation must be consistent with definitions under the Health of Animals Act and Regulations

1) "Apiary" means any location belonging to a beekeeping operation where a group of hives (colonies) is maintained

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- May be subject to CFIA fees
- May be subject to requirements of Other Government Departments
- Contact an Import Service Centre for further information (Click on Help - How to contact us)

========== IPC INSTRUCTIONS ==========

ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION

Official Zoosanitary Export Certificate must contain all statements and information as required by the Permit to Import Animals

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION:

No additional IPC instructions.

========== RECOMMENDATIONS to CUSTOMS ==========

Refer to CFIA (must be accompanied by the following documents/registrations):
- ___ Import Permit
- ___ Zoosanitary Export Certificate

Destination

Phone Fax:

Registrations

3 Import Permit :
5 Zoosanitary Export Certificate